(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Energy plantation demonstration programme

1438. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken an 'Energy Plantation Demonstration Programme' to utilise the wasteland for energy plantation in various States/ Union Territories; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main objectives of the programme are:

(i) to provide fuelwood for cooking needs of the domestic sector,

(ii) to generate employment potential in the rural sector.

(iii) to improve the soil fertility of wastelands through an increased organic matter content and decreased soil erosion;

(iv) to bring about awareness regarding fast-growing species appropriate for wastelands; and

(v) to provide feed stock on a sustained basis for wood-based power conversion systems.

A number of energy plantation demonstration projects covering an area of 15,146.45 ha with several fast growing species have been sanctioned so far in fifteen States and Union Territories. This programme is directly linked with energy generation employment creation environmental protection wasteland utilisation and hence poverty allevation and sustained economic development.

1439. [Cancelled.]

Setting up of a Thermal Power Plant in Belthara road in Ballia District in Uttar Pradesh

1440. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has a proposal to set up a thermal power plant in Belthara Road situated in Ballia district; and

(b) if so; what decision; if any; has been taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). A feasibility report in respect of installation of a thermal power plant (3x210 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 982.2 crores at Belthara Road, District Ballia was received by CEA in December, 1988 from the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB). The Central Electricity Authority can techno-economically appraise the proposal after essential inputs such as availability of fuel and water etc. are tied up and necessary clearances including from environmental and civil aviation angles have become available.

Coal transportation through pipeline

1441. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state: